

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the objection to the Drawings is hereby requested. Replacement sheets are being submitted herein. Therefore, reconsideration of this objection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the objection to the Specification is hereby requested. It should be noted that a Substitute Specification was not submitted with the Preliminary Amendment. The document submitted was a marked-up version of the English-translation of the International Application. However, enclosed, for convenience, is a clean copy of the marked-up version of the English-translation of German Application No. 103 14 118.9-23 filed March 28, 2003 and submitted with the Preliminary Amendment on March 26, 2004. The clean copy is, in effect, a Substitute Specification (see below). Therefore, reconsideration of the objection to the Specification disclosure is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that a Substitute Specification is being submitted with this Response to Office Action and Amendment. The Substitute Specification includes the changes made in the Preliminary Amendment. The Substitute Specification includes no new matter and a marked-up version is included for convenience.

As requested, a new title is being submitted herein.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 7-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is hereby requested. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 11 has been amended to replace the word "the" with "a", thereby overcoming the antecedent basis rejection. Therefore, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

As stated in the Office Action, Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As also stated in the Office Action, Claims 4 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9 and 4

have been so rewritten as independent claims. Therefore, Claims 9 and 4 are considered to be in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 10-13 have been amended to change their dependencies.

Please cancel Claims 1, 7 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 10-16 depend from allowed independent Claim 4 and are considered to be allowable for the same reasons as Claim 4 and for their own limitations as well, and such is respectfully requested.

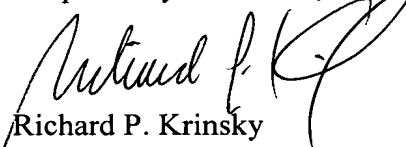
Claims 17-23 have been added as dependent claims depending from Claim 9. The subject matter of Claims 17-23 is derived from the subject matter of Claims 2-3, 5 and 10-14. Claims 17-23 are considered to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 9 and for their own limitations as well, and such is respectfully requested.

Based upon the above, Claims 2-6 and 9-23 are in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

In view of all of the above, the Application is now in condition for allowance and such is hereby requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (677/41958).

Respectfully submitted,



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